



News Release

Communications New Brunswick

NB Human Rights Commission

International Women's Day statement (04/03/05)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - In recognition of International Women's Day, Monday, March 8, the following message is issued by Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, Chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

"March 8 is International Women's Day. The United Nations first proclaimed International Women's Day in 1977, but the day has been widely observed in many parts of the world since 1911.

The theme for this year, "She's on a Role!" reminds us of the many essential roles played by women in New Brunswick, and of the pressures exerted on women by competing and sometimes conflicting expectations.

At the Human Rights Commission, dealing with human rights issues concerning the inequality of women is a high priority. We take sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints very seriously and we recognize that it is important to deal with these matters through education and preventative measures.

These cases represent a loss to our society and a cost to employers that often goes unrecognized. The recruitment and retraining costs caused by turnover, sick time and low morale caused by harassment, the loss of skilled applicants due to hiring discrimination, and the money and time spent dealing with complaints are all very real.

In the coming year, the Human Rights Commission will be demonstrating these costs to employers in a new series of workshops making the business case for human rights.

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year, I invite all New Brunswickers to reflect with pride on the accomplishments of all women, and to resolve to further advance the struggle for equality."

04/03/05

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